

MPs to Visit Persian Gulf Arab States
 TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A team of Iranian lawmakers is scheduled to visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait in the coming weeks, an MP announced on Monday.
 MP Hussein Naqavi Hussein said the visit will take place in the second half of September. “The most important purpose that members of our country’s parliamentary delegation pursue in the visit to those three neighboring countries is to ... expand diplomatic relations, particularly the parliamentary diplomacy,” he explained.

Kayhan International

Tehran Hails New Syrian Gov’t
 TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran on Monday welcomed the formation of a new government in Syria, and congratulated the Arab country’s nation and president on the development. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham expressed the hope that following the June presidential election in Syria and formation of the new government on Sunday, the country would “successfully weather an imposed crisis in light of rapport and national unity”. She also praised the Arab nation for its strong resistance to the foreign-backed militancy that erupted in 2011.

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Viewpoint
 By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer
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Moscow: Ukraine Talks Must Back Ceasefire



Houthi Leader Slams Yemeni Gov’t



Syrian Army Gains Ground in Golan Heights



FM Zarif, EU’s Ashton Hold Talks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Monday held talks with top EU diplomat Catherine Ashton in Brussels, following fresh U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic.
 Ashton, the EU foreign policy chief, has shepherded year-long talks between Iran and major powers, aiming for a comprehensive deal to end a decade-long dispute over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear activities.
 The negotiations suffered a setback in July when a target date for an agreement was missed and the talks were extended for four months. November 24 is the new date for a final settlement.
 Zarif met Ashton for a working lunch, accompanied by two of his deputies, Abbas Araqchi and Majid Takht-Ravanchi, both members of Iran’s negotiating team.
 The Iranian minister also met President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy in Brussels to discuss Iran-EU mutual interests, Tehran’s nuclear energy program and countering terrorism and extremism across the Middle East.
 “Today we held talks with the EU and Belgium officials. Our first meeting was about general issues and overall interests of Iran and the EU, the nuclear issue as well as terrorism and extremism in the (Middle East) region,” Zarif said following the meeting.
 Ahead of their departure from Tehran, Araqchi talked up the chances of a deal in an interview with state media.
 “The suggestion of an impasse in the negotiations is not correct,” he told Iran, a government newspaper.
 “There are key questions and if we answer these, it will address other issues as well. Hopefully we can reach a common understanding by November.”
 The biggest disagreement is on the amount of uranium enrichment Iran would be allowed to conduct under a deal with the West. There is a massive gap between the two sides on what is acceptable.
 In exchange for nuclear curbs, Iran wants a vast array of U.S., EU and UN sanctions to be lifted.
 Araqchi said Iran wants any agreement to be approved by the UN Security Council “in the form of a resolution”, which would ensure sanctions were ended.
 “American lawyers assure us that the U.S. president can suspend all sanctions of Congress and the (U.S.) political team endorsed this view,” Araqchi added.
 Monday’s meeting with Ashton preceded a resumption of the talks between Iran and the powers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month.
 After his meeting in the Belgian capital, Zarif will head to Luxembourg and then to Italy for talks with Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, Ashton’s recently-appointed successor, IRNA said.
 Iran and the P5+1 group of Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany re-opened talks on the nuclear issue last year, following the election of President Hassan Rouhani.
 An interim deal was struck last November and although hopes for a final agreement remain high, recent months have seen a slowing of momentum and the new U.S. sanctions have angered Tehran.
 Mistrust of the U.S. has further deepened because of fresh measures targeting dozens of Iranian individuals and entities, including

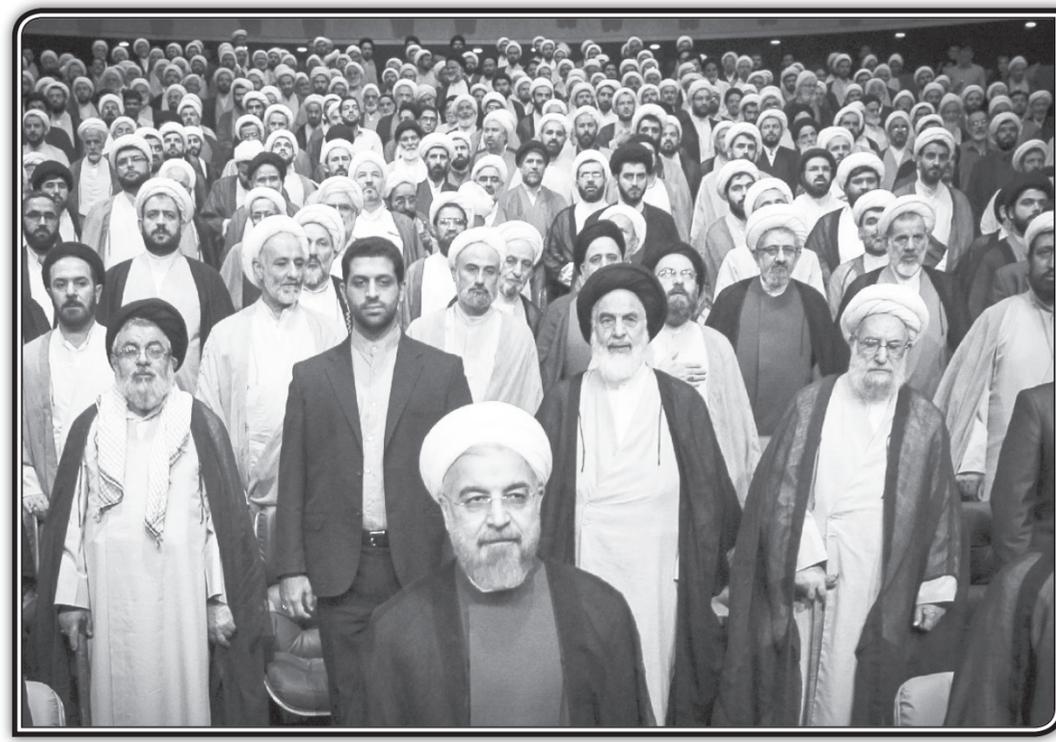
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Minister: Gas Deal With Oman Activated

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has agreed to export 20 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of gas to Oman, Iran’s oil minister was quoted as saying by the Fars news agency, indicating the two sides had agreed on terms after years of talks.
 Energy-hungry Oman first agreed to buy gas from Iran as long ago as 2005, but price disagreements and Western sanctions that have stunted Iranian energy projects prevented any real progress.
 Also Oman has been pressured by the United States to buy fuel from alternative suppliers such as Qatar, according to U.S. embassy cables released by Wikileaks.
 “Gas negotiations with Oman are over, and as both sides have agreed, Iran will export 20 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of gas to Oman

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President Rouhani: Iran Will Spare Nothing to Liberate Al-Quds



President Rouhani attends that conference on World Mosque Day in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- President Hassan Rouhani said here Monday the Islamic Republic will do all in its power to liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Al-Quds (Jerusalem) from the Israeli regime’s occupation and will spare no efforts to help the Palestinian people.
 “The administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, like in the past, will use all tools at its disposal to save Al-Aqsa Mosque and liberate the first Qibla (point of direction to which Muslims turn for prayers) of Muslims and will spare no efforts to help the oppressed Palestinians,” Rouhani said at a conference on World Mosque Day.

He added that the Muslim world will not allow aggressors to continue their occupation of Al-Aqsa Mosque. “We are confident that the final victory belongs to Muslims,” the Iranian president pointed out.
 Rouhani further condemned the extremist groups that kill women and children and destroy mosques in the name of Islam, saying a “bunch of ignorant barbarians” are serving arrogant powers by defaming Islam.
 Over the past decades, the occupying regime of Israel has tried to change demographic map of Al-Quds by constructing illegal settlements, destroying historical sites, and expelling the local Palestinian population.
 Over half a million Zionists live in over 120 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Al-Quds. The international community considers the settlements as illegal.
 Rouhani further urged the country’s religious authorities to be more tolerant of the Internet and new technologies, saying Iran cannot “close the gates to the world”.
 Rouhani made the appeal during a meeting with preachers in Tehran, saying that Internet is important for all aspiring students and experts trying to access new knowledge and science.

‘Gaza Will Take 20 Years to Rebuild’

AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- An international organization involved in assessing post-conflict reconstruction says it will take 20 years for Gaza’s battered and neglected housing stock to be rebuilt following the recent aggression by the occupying regime of Israel.
 The assessment by Shelter Cluster, co-chaired by the UN refugee agency and the Red Cross, underscores the complexities involved in an overall reconstruction program for the Gaza Strip, which some Palestinian officials have estimated could cost in excess of \$6 billion.
 Any effort to rebuild Gaza will be hindered by a blockade imposed by Egypt and the Zionist regime. Israel has severely restricted the import of concrete and other building materials into Gaza.
 With a population of 1.8 million, Gaza is a densely populated coastal strip of urban warrens and agricultural land that still bears the scars of previous rounds of fighting.
 In its report issued late Friday, Shelter Cluster said 17,000 Gaza housing units were destroyed or severely damaged during this summer’s war and 5,000 units still need work after damage sustained in the previous military campaigns. In addition, it says, Gaza has a housing deficit of 75,000 units.
 Shelter Cluster said its 20-year assessment is based on the capacity of the main Israel-Gaza cargo crossing to handle 100 trucks of construction materials daily.
 Over 2,100 Palestinians, most civilians, died in the war. The occupying regime of Israel lost 71 people, all but six of them soldiers.
 The Zionist regime has been presented with a hefty bill for 50 days of war in Gaza, as its prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, moved to slash spending by 2% this year to offset the \$2.52 billion cost of the

conflict.
 With only the Zionist military and domestic intelligence agency Shin Bet exempt from the sharp spending reductions, the area to be hit hardest emerged as the regime’s education system, with critics – including members of Netanyahu’s cabinet – predicting that the poorest Zionists will feel the brunt of the cuts.
 Among those protesting was the welfare minister, Meir Cohen, who insisted there was no more fat in his budget to trim.
 “From whom will we take? From those who have nothing to put in

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‘Hundreds’ of Americans Linked to ISIL

Washington (Dispatches) -- Several hundred U.S. citizens may have had contact with ISIL terrorists in Syria, the chairman of the powerful House Intelligence Committee said.
 Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers, a former FBI agent, told “Fox News Sunday” he was concerned about efforts to keep track of Americans who had links to the group.
 “It’s in the hundreds that have at least one time traveled, participated and trained with them,” Rogers said.
 “Some have drifted back, some have gone to Europe.”
 The U.S. State Department has previously estimated that more than 100 U.S. citizens had traveled to Syria to join radical groups such as the ISIL.
 “I’m very concerned because we don’t know every single person who has an American passport that has gone and trained and learned how to fight,” Rogers said.
 He also raised concerns about the estimated 500 British citizens and “several hundred” Canadians believed to have traveled to Syria, noting that passport holders from those countries could both enter the United States without a visa.
 U.S. officials last week confirmed an American fighting for ISIL was killed earlier this month in Syria.
 Separately Sunday, another U.S. lawmaker said a strategy to fight militants in Syria could become clearer next week.
 “We don’t have the information which hopefully we’ll have in the next week or so what the plans are going to be,” Dutch Ruppensberger -- the top Democrat on the House

Intelligence Committee -- told CNN’s “State of the Union.”
 “A lot of it is classified. You don’t tell an enemy you’re coming in to attack them. That’s the number one issue. You don’t respond to the media. You respond to the endgame.”
 On Monday, Human Rights Watch said ISIL militants have used cluster munitions in Syria in at least one location.
 The New York-based group, citing reports from local Kurdish officials and photographic evidence,

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